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U.S. Embassy Hosts Forum to Demystify the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

Continuing an important partnership that began two years ago, the U.S. Embassy and the Federation of Women Entrepreneur Associations (FEWA) co-hosted the “Demystifying the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)” forum on May 9. Ambassador Gration opened the event with remarks focused on how AGOA, a U.S. law passed in 2000 to provide duty-free access for virtually any product exported from eligible sub-Saharan African countries, is helping women drive economic growth and create jobs and wealth in Kenya. During the event, participants learned about the history and background of AGOA, what the U.S. Government is doing to help Kenyan entrepreneurs harness the law’s benefits, and how the United States is partnering with groups such as FEWA to empower women to tap into the U.S. market, grow their businesses, and sustain their families and communities. The event also highlighted the upcoming [11th annual AGOA Forum](#) and related events next month in the United States. Among the highlights of the event were remarks made by four FEWA members who are AGOA beneficiaries, representing the horticulture, fashion accessories, home décor, and sporting goods sectors. Each of these inspiring ladies shared their experiences and lessons learned, as well as their thoughts on how AGOA has helped them grow their businesses to the point where they are in a position to give back to their communities. They also displayed a selection of their beautiful products, including hand-tied artificial fishing flies, beaded jewelry, sisal and leather handbags, soapstone carvings, cut flowers and fresh produce, and other home décor items.

For more information on AGOA, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.agoa.gov/>

http://competeafrica.org/components/eca_trade_hub/index.php

<http://agoastrategy.blogspot.com/>



FEWA member and AGOA beneficiary Jennifer Muli of Katchy Kollections displays her products.

<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/>